

PUBLIC NOTICE

New England District

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Date: July 7, 2009

Comment Period Ends: August 7, 2009

File Number: NAE-2007-2818

In Reply Refer To: William J. Mullen

Or by e-mail: william.j.mullen@usace.armv.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT Rentschler Field Development Company, LLC

To place fill in, or otherwise disturb, 4.22 acres of wetlands/waters in order to facilitate the ACTIVITY planned buildout of a 7.8 million square feet mixed use development over a 15-20-year period at the 920-acre United Technologies Corporation campus (the "Rentschler Field" site). A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

This work is proposed in wetlands/waters in the Pewter Brook and Willow Brook watersheds (tributaries to the Connecticut River) at Silver Lane, East Hartford, Connecticut. The proposed location on the USGS Manchester quadrangle sheet is at Lat 41 45' 9.3" N, Long 72 37' 15" W.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:
Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
X Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act)
,

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other

public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- () Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Bill Mullen at (978) 318-8559, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil.

THIS NOTICE IS **NOT** AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

John M. Milate	
Robert J. DeSista	
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Brancl	h
Regulatory Division	

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-
8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this
portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696
Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.
NAME:

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE

The work includes the placement of fill within, or otherwise disturbance of, 4.22 acres of wetlands at the 920-acre United Technologies Corporation (UTC) campus (aka "Rentschler Field") in East Hartford, Connecticut. The fill would be placed as part of a project that involves redevelopment of the former Pratt and Whitney (P&W) airfield site as a world class research and technology mixed-use community, including up to 7.8 million square feet of building area in addition to the 6 million square feet of existing building area. The development, expected to be built out over the next 15-20 years, would include research and technology, office, manufacturing, education, residential, medical, fitness, restaurant, and other retail and cultural facilities. Nearly 15,000 jobs would be created at the UTC campus in association with this plan.

The UTC campus is presently occupied by P&W Corporation's world headquarters and the United Technologies Research Center on 370 acres of the western and northern portions of the site. The remainder of the 550 acres of land includes the now-decommissioned airfield on 280 acres in the central portion of the site, and primarily forested land on 270 acres of the eastern portion of the site. A conservation easement protects 129.2 acres of forested westland and adjacent uplands ("the Conservation Easement area") along the eastern portion of the site (including a narrow strip of 13.6 acres along the site's southern edge). A Cabela's retail store occupies approximately 20 acres of the site near the 75-acre Rentschler Field Stadium ("the Stadium") site. Currently, parking for major stadium events (primarily football games) occurs both at the stadium site and on portions of the former airfield under a lease agreement between UTC and the State of Connecticut. UTC is currently choosing to exercise its option to redevelop the airfield site, and is planning on donating 70 acres of land near the stadium sufficient to accommodate the additional parking needs of the Stadium (an additional 6500 parking spaces).

A comprehensive Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) report entitled "Proposed Infrastructure Improvements and Rentschler Field Development" (October 2006), prepared in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, addressed state-proposed transportation network improvements associated with the proposed plan of redevelopment of Rentschler Field, the proposed stadium parking plan, and the indirect and cumulative actions associated with the proposed plan. This Public Notice focuses upon the proposed wetland impacts of the redevelopment. Several alternative developmental layouts were considered as part of the process, with the currently proposed layout having less impact to wetlands than others considered.

Rentschler Field has 38 acres of wetlands largely bordering the site's two perennial streams, Willow Brook and Pewterpot Brook. Willow Brook and its associated wetlands are located in a limited area on the northern portion of the site; none of the proposed impacts are to the Willow Brook system. Most of the site's wetlands are along the eastern edge of the site, and drain to Pewterpot Brook, located near the southern boundary of the airfield. The wetlands along the eastern portion of the site discharge to Pewterpot Brook via two different pathways: via the airfield's southerly-flowing 3-6-foot deep eastern perimeter ditch; and via a 3000'-long underground culvert leading in a southwesterly direction to wetlands associated with Fireman's Pond, and then on to Pewterpot Brook. The manmade ditch and culvert systems were created in 1931, when the airfield was constructed.

There are three general areas of impacts to wetlands/waters as follows: impacts to ditches in the northeast portion of the site associated with the proposed new Stadium parking area; impacts to the wetlands (primarily the eastern perimeter ditch) associated the proposed Perimeter Road and the manipulation of stormwater; and at an existing wetland system associated with Firemans Pond in the south-central portion of Rentschler Field. Impact areas within the footprint of the proposed Stadium parking area have been assigned "Regulated Activity" (RA) numbers, while those impacts associated with the proposed Perimeter Road and stormwater manipulations have been assigned numbers. The proposed wetland impacts are discussed in the following paragraphs and shown in detail on **Sheets 5, 6, and 7**.

Sheet 5: The Rentschler Field Stadium, located adjacent to the Rentschler Field site, is a 38,000-seat Division 1A arena primarily used for University of Connecticut football games in the late summer and fall, but soccer games, high school football games and concerts are also held there. The stadium property currently has approximately 4100 permanent parking spaces which consist of paved, gravel, and grass (reinforced turf) parking lots. A total of 16,000 spaces are needed to accommodate sellout events based on observations of past events, including staff and media. Privately managed lots along Silver Lane are capable of accommodating a small portion of that required. As part of this redevelopment proposal, UTC plans on donating 70 acres (another 6500 parking spaces) to the State of Connecticut for stadium parking to augment its onsite parking spaces. Improvements needed to construct the parking area impact 0.92 acres of wetlands, primarily within areas known as North Klondike and South Klondike, lying to the southeast of the Stadium site, between the eastern perimeter ditch and the existing Conservation Easement area along the eastern portion of Rentschler Field. The EIE had targeted the Klondikes to be used for Stadium parking in-part due to their proximity to the Stadium. To minimize impacts to the environment, the parking areas themselves will be grassed (fiberreinforced turf systems underlain with a base layer that will enable infiltration), and a buffer will be retained between the parking areas and the Conservation Easement area. The parking areas are expected to be used only during the major events (approximately 10-12 times per year). Specific wetland impacts are as follows: RA 1 involves 855 square feet (sf) of impacts for fill and culvert placement associated with construction of the Rugby Field access road; RA 2 involves 4480 sf of impacts for grading associated with a level spreader; RA 3 involves 1050 sf of impacts for the filling of a ditch for construction of a pedestrian path, and controlling of vegetation within the ditch; RA 4 involves 570 sf of impacts associated with filling of a drainage ditch for construction of the North Klondike access road; RA 5 (7040 sf) and RA 6 (2740 sf) involve the culverting of segments of the Perimeter Road drainage ditch; RA 8 (260 sf, shown on Sheet 6) involves the installation of a stormwater outfall; RA 9 (7290 sf) involves culverting of the east-west drainage ditch; RA 10 (1510 sf) involves replacement of the existing culverts in the unnamed tributary to Pewterpot Brook; RA 11 (175 sf) involves grading for a vegetated swale for a stormwater outfall; and RA 13 (6240 sf) involves the filling of a drainage ditch in the North Klondike parcel. Note: the impacts for RA 7 and RA-12 are included within impact numbers 7 and 14, respectively (below), since they are in the same location.

Sheet 6: Impacts assigned numbers are largely for purposes of construction of the proposed Perimeter Road and implementation of stormwater management actions. The wetlands impacted by the proposed impacts (with the exception of impact 11) are the eastern perimeter ditch and a couple of small hydrologically-isolated nonvernal pool wetlands, none of which are within the Conservation Easement area. Impacts assigned numbers have been defined in less detail than those in the proposed Stadium parking areas in order to enable flexibility with future plans. Irrespective of the exact location of the Perimeter Road, the activities will impact the wetlands in some fashion in order to facilitate required stormwater management at the Rentschler Field site. The wetlands may be expanded, culverted, re-routed, or filled in. These areas include 3 (1283 sf), 7 (20,281 sf), 8 (5720 sf), 12 (2744 sf), 13 (23,621 sf), and 14 (8096 sf).

Sheet 7: Impact number 10 (81,357 sf) is for the expanded use of Fireman's Pond as a primary drainage system detention basin. This manmade pond receives stormwater from the expansive paved surfaces of the various runways and has limited functions and values. The impact to this wetland will involve regrading in and along the pond (some parts being filled in), and its expanded use as a functional stormwater detention basin. Impact number 11 (8397 sf) is associated with the proposed Perimeter Road at a location southwest of Fireman's Pond.

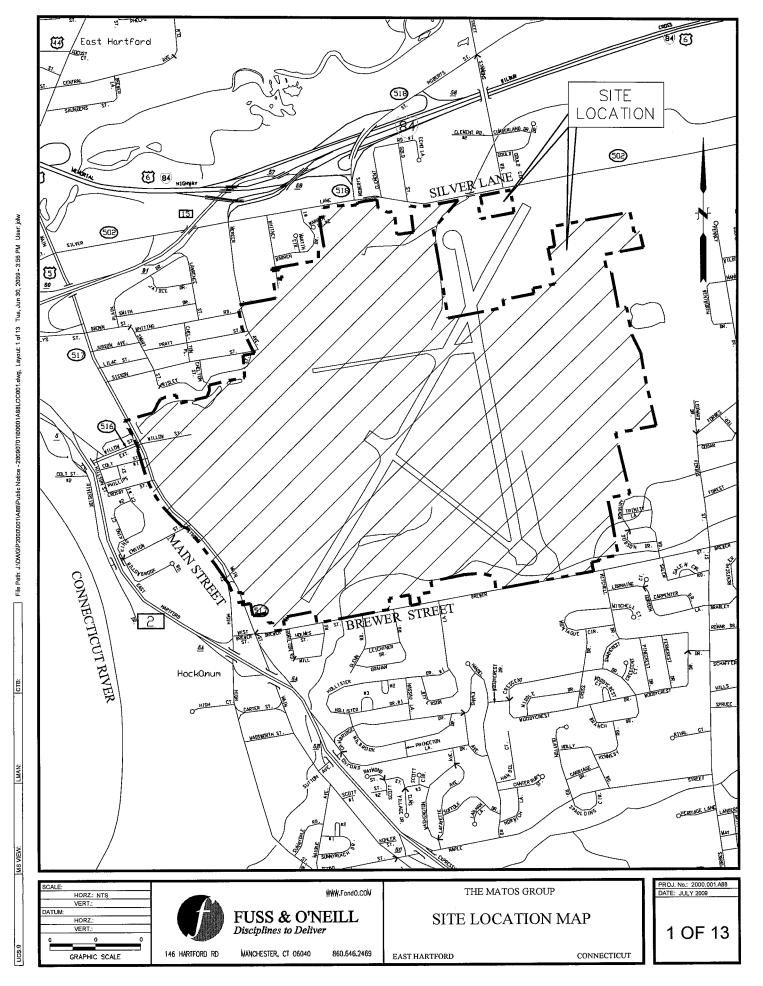
In addition to impacting wetlands, the Rentschler Field redevelopment proposal will result in the total loss of grassland bird habitat at the site. The 240 acres of grassland habitat at the site supports the largest known population of grasshopper sparrows in Connecticut as well as several other state-listed species. The EIE proposed that a large parcel (a minimum of 250 acres for upland sandpiper and 150 acres for grassland sparrow habitat) be obtained somewhere in the vicinity between Rocky Hill to Enfield, Connecticut, specifically to mitigate the loss of this habitat. It was further recommended that the habitat be available from April 1 to Aug 31, and receiving maintenance in the form of mowing and spot-herbiciding. In June 2008, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection acquired a 196-acre site in Suffield, Connecticut, specifically to mitigate the loss of grassland habitat associated with the Rentschler Field project. The site is within the migratory flight corridor of the grassland bird species found at Rentschler Field, and is adjacent to a 250-acre site acquired at the same time by the State of Massachusetts to conserve grassland bird species. A 3-phase habitat plan is currently being finalized, with Phase I being the removal of posts, wire and tobacco netting, and general site clean-up activities (completed), habitat creation/enhancements, and site access controls. Phase II includes removal of unwanted structures (e.g. old tobacco barns), and Phase III includes habitat maintenance and monitoring. Implementation of the plan will occur over several years.

The Rentschler Field property will, upon full buildout, be characterized by significant increases in impervious areas including building rooftops, access roadways and driveways and parking facilities. Accordingly, a Master Grading and Drainage Plan was prepared for the Rentschler Field redevelopment outlining how the site will achieve no increase in peak runoff and insure no degradation in water quality. On a sitewide level, wet detention basins/ponds (including Fireman's Pond) and a dry detention swale will be used to insure that peak flows from the site are not increased. In addition, major areas of localized development (referred to as Pad Sites) will employ various combinations of dry detention basins, wet detention basins, rooftop detention, underground detention, and infiltration in support of the same objective. The Master Grading and Drainage Plan for the Rentschler Field Redevelopment also outlines stormwater quality measures that are planned to be used on the project. Some combination of the following stormwater quality measures are planned to be built at this site to achieve removal of 80% of post-development total suspended solids from the runoff prior to discharging to the receiving watercourse or wetlands: deep catch basin sumps, hydrodynamic separators (swirl concentrators), sedimentation forebays, biofilters, and riprap or vegetated plunge pools.

An authorization in accordance with our Connecticut Programmatic General Permit (NAE-2006-3244) was issued in November 2006 to Cabela's, located within the boundaries of Rentschler Field on the north-central portion of the site. It permitted the filling of 0.22 acres of wetlands to facilitate construction of a road to Cabela's retail store. The permit was issued after a 129.2-acre Conservation Easement, protecting Rentschler Field's most valuable ecological assets, was agreed to be provided as mitigation (**Sheets 2 and 3**). The Conservation Easement, executed in March 2007, protects forested wetlands and adjacent uplands providing habitat for the eastern box turtle, a state-listed species of special concern, and other wildlife, and maintains the existing 6000-foot long wildlife corridor from Brewer Street to Silver Lane. This mitigation is far in excess of that typically required for such small impacts (0.22 acres), and we accordingly agreed to consider this

mitigation as a substantial part of development of the remaining low-value wetlands on the remainder of the site. Nevertheless, additional mitigation has been offered. Wetland Mitigation Area No. 1 (Sheet 10) involves the restoration of approximately two acres of a *Phragmites* dominated wetland within the existing Conservation Easement area to a native species dominated emergent and scrub shrub wetland system. Wetland Mitigation Area No. 2 (Sheet 11) will involve the removal of concrete foundations and other anthropogenic debris from a depressional wetland located the South Klondike and replanting with appropriate wetland plants. Riparian Zone Mitigation Area RZ-1 (Sheet 12) involves the removal of invasive shrubs and vines from the banks of the unnamed tributary to Pewter Pot Brook lying between two proposed culverts on the border between the North and South Klondikes, and subsequent replanting with native trees, shrubs, and seed mixes. Mitigation Areas 3 through 6 will involve various minor wetland enhancements including removal of manmade debris, removal of invasives (Japanese knotweed) and planting with native species. In addition, a 25-foot-wide buffer is proposed around Fireman's Pond to provide limited habitat and recreational use.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "Rentschler Field Redevelopment" on 13 sheets, some variously dated and some undated.



RENTSCHLER FIELD REDEVELOPMENT

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